COMIC SHOP NEWS

ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN

Marvel's Ultimate Makeover

For more than ten years, Marvel's Ultimate Universe has shared many elements with the core Marvel Universe. Many of the heroes were the same; many of the villains were the same; many of the storylines were the same.

That began to change a couple of years back with the death of many of the members of the Ultimate Fantastic Four and the Ultimate X-Men, followed by more changes to major Ultimate characters and culminating with this year's death of Peter Parker in a dramatic storyline that made it clear that this most definitely isn't a simplified version of the Marvel Universe.

And as big as those changes are, even bigger changes are on the way as Marvel introduces an all-new Spider-Man, paving the way for tightly connected storylines in a cohesive universe, for the first time in Ultimate history.

"'The Death of Spider-Man' was a taste of things to come in the Ultimate Universe," Marvel editor in chief *Axel Alonso* said. "What we're going to give readers in the future is a cohesive Ultimate Universe where characters are fighting for the same stakes, and are affected by the same events. 'The Death of Spider-Man' is the thing that will bring readers to this project, but it's the storylines that will keep them. We have three top writers—*Brian Bendis, Jonathan Hickman,* and *Nick Spencer*— who are working in total cooperation on these books to coordinate this universe."

Of course, ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man*** remains the central book in the Ultimate Marvel Universe, just as it has been ever since the line launched—thanks largely to the powerful character-driven storytelling of writer *Brian Bendis,* who has written the series since its premiere. "We have a brand new ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man*** debuting in September by me and *Sarah Pichelli*," *Brian Bendis* said. "In fact, she handed in a big pile of pages this morning and they're amazing. We're working together at a great creative level; it's a beautiful book. Readers will find out who the new Spidey is and what he means to the Ultimate comics very soon now. We're very happy to say that there will be some significant mainstream press behind this in a very, very strong way.

"What we have in store for readers is a consolidation of what made ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** such a rich experience to begin with; we're going to fill this series with stories that you have *not* seen before. If you look back on the ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** stories, the ones that we were most proud of were the ones that *weren't* based on classic stories—stories like Kitty Pryde, or Peter revealing his identity to Mary Jane. Now that we have a new Spider-Man, this is a perfect opportunity to tell new stories that will resonate with a modern audience—but at the same time, people following the book will feel very connected because of the legacy of Peter Parker."

The next core title in the Ultimate Comics line is ***The Ultimates,*** written by *Jonathan Hickman* and illustrated by *Esad Ribic.* This is one of two ***Ultimate Universe Reborn*** books that Hickman will write; he's also the man responsible for ***Ultimate Comics Hawkeye,*** an Ultimates tie-in illustrated by *Rafa Sandoval,* focusing on Clint Barton. "***Ultimate Hawkeye*** and ***Ultimates*** will be sister books," *Jonathan Hickman* said. "Both will be going on at the same time in two different places in the world, but my mandate for the ***Ultimates*** and ***Ultimate Hawkeye*** is to remake the Ultimate Universe. ***Ultimates*** is a big book, a *huge* book, a major part of the Ultimate Universe. And for the first time, ***Ultimates*** will be monthly; not only are we proud of how it looks, but we're committed to get it out there on time!"

The third major component of ***Ultimate Universe Reborn*** is ***Ultimate X-Men,*** written by *Nick Spencer* and illustrated by *Paco Medina.* "***Ultimate X-Men*** is a big moment for me at Marvel; I'm excited to work alongside Brian and Jonathan on something like this, and I'm giving it my all. It feels like something special," *Nick Spencer* explained. "What we're trying to tell here in ***Ultimate X-Men,*** with its amazing art by Paco Medina, is to establish a foundation story about these kids—Kitty Pryde and Rogue and Bobby Drake and Johnny Storm—and what they do when everything that they had is gone. Everything that they believed about themselves is different; they lost themselves, they lost their friends, and they're trying to figure out where to go from here. I'm excited about the emotional journey that these kids are going to embark on. I can also tell you that this is a shocker book; this is the closest I've ever gotten to delivering that shocker moment on the last page of every issue. There will be moments that will make readers immediately want the next issue.

"***Ultimate X-Men*** is also a fun book. I worked hard to capture that ***Ultimate Spider-Man/Ultimate X-Men*** magic and be a worthy successor to the characters and stories in those books. It's designed to be very cohesive with what Jonathan and Brian are doing in their books; there will be moments that we will coordinate with and react to. Let me tell you, it's fun to coordinate something like this between three and four books; we'll bump into each other a lot, bump into one another's stories, just like Marvel did in the early days. There will be things in ***Ultimates*** and ***Ultimate Hawkeye,*** for instance, that will be a very big part of our story."

Spencer stressed that old Ultimate X-Men continuity was *not* being scrapped in this relaunch. "Everything that came before is being respected. There's great stuff that I'm pulling from *Mark Millar,* from *Brian K. Vaughan,* from *Brian Bendis,* from *Jeph Loeb*—you'll see plot threads from almost every run prior. *Everything* still counts."

Alonso also said that Marvel is *not* abandoning its often-delayed ***Ultimate X*** series, which will wrap its story up in the near future. "***Ultimate X*** winds to a close with Loeb and Adams, but the groundwork that they laid is not being dropped. ***Ultimate X*** will tie in with ***Ultimate Hawkeye*** and with ***Ultimate X-Men.***"

"Jimmy Hudson plays a fundamental role in the ***Ultimate Comics X-Men*** story in the first year," *Nick Spencer* added.

Marvel's Senior Vice President—Sales *David Gabriel* explained Marvel's goal with ***Ultimate Universe Reborn.*** "What we're recreating here is one blockbuster universe of these Marvel characters in the Ultimate world, tied together unlike it ever has been before, and written and created by some of our top creators. These guys are determined to create a super-strong universe."

"Absolutely," *Axel Alonso* continued, "and even better, we will be delivering these books monthly… and even more! Don't look for lags in schedule or late books—we will be shipping each new Ultimate book *at least* 12 times a year. We will also begin to see more crossovers in our universe in the near future."

"That's three monthly Ultimate comics and one connected limited series," Gabriel added. "Ideally, we'll be offering one Ultimate comic every week."

"I think I can say that the inevitable book being bumped a week might happen, but nothing is going to be bumped out of the month," Alonso explained. You have my guarantee that we're going to be shipping these books at least monthly."

"In ***Ultimate Spider-Man,*** we did 160 issues, and we were on time with every single one," Bendis stressed. "With ***Ultimate Universe Reborn,*** we have put together a team of creators who can match that dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm."

"We've specifically hired these writers and artists with a goal of delivering on a monthly basis," Alonso said.

In cases where they know that a single artist won't be able to maintain a monthly schedule, Marvel is working with rotating art teams to keep the books on schedule. "As far as ***Ultimates*** goes, we'll have two art teams that we will keep on the book consistently," Hickman said. "It's Esad's book, but the book is too big for one guy to do twelve issues a year. The good news is that Esad will help pick who the other artist is, and *Dean White* will stay on as colorist to make sure we have a consistent look for the books."

Brian Bendis explained why the commitment to on-time scheduling made those crossovers possible for the first time. "To watch ***The Ultimates*** unfold under *Mark Millar's* and *Brian K. Vaughan's* hand was wonderful, but my frustration as a storyteller was that I couldn't reference it even slightly, because I didn't want to spoil things since I never knew *when* the book would ship. It was frustrating to me, and I knew it was frustrating to readers as the

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universe got older. That changes now. Going forward with this relaunch, the three of us will be able to reference each other in the classic Marvel way and have guest-stars show up in each book. That's worth the price of admission alone. We were rarely able to do that except for events and key storylines, but it'll be a core part of the Ultimate Universe now."

"The Death of Spider-Man" was the first major component of Ultimate Universe Reborn; the next phase launches in early August with the release of ***Ultimate Fallout #4***. "We have an all-new Ultimate Spider-Man launching in September, and we've already given hints that ***Ultimate Fallout #4*** marks his first appearance," Gabriel said. "This is a book that readers will not want to miss; it's a book you no one want to be short of when the media blitz hits. This could be as big as 'The Death of Johnny Storm'—even as big as 'The Death of Captain America.'" ***Ultimate Fallout #4*** will ship in a clear polybag; this will enable readers to see a figure in a Spider-Man costume on the cover without revealing who it is until they open the bag and read the book.

With the relaunch of the Ultimate Universe, Gabriel said that Marvel would adopt "a similar all-new trade dress that makes the covers look like one cohesive line."

"The new trade dress is evocative of the original Ultimate trade dress for a very good reason," Alonso added.

"However, the first issues of all four books will be polybagged, so you won't see that trade dress to begin with," Gabriel said. "We've done polybags before, with signed books included in some of the bags, but we've decided with ***Ultimate Universe Reborn*** to take this one step higher. If you like what we've done so far, this should top all of that!…"

Are other ongoing series in the works to join the initial trio of titles? "At this point, no," Alonso said. "We're launching with these three monthlies featuring some of Marvel's largest characters. A lot of characters exist within that world, so I wouldn't be surprised if we launched another monthly further down the line, but probably *not* within the first year."

Ultimate Comics Ultimates #1 is scheduled for August 24th release; ***Ultimate Comics Hawkeye #1*** follows a week later on August 31st. ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #1*** premieres on September 7th, with ***Ultimate Comics X-Men #1*** slated for September 14th release. As mentioned earlier, all four books will be polybagged; each comic is priced at $3.99.

by Cliff Biggers

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Joe Lansdale: HPL's Cool Heir

Scores of writers have been inspired by the works of *H. P. Lovecraft*, adding their own tales to the ever-growing Cthulhu Mythos. But one of horror's most acclaimed storytellers is about to make his mark on the Mythos as the writer of ***H.P. Lovecraft's The Dunwich Horror***, a comic series that offers a modern, updated take on HPL's timeless tale of the Whateleys, the Old Ones, and the Necronomicon.

IDW has enlisted award-winning author *Joe R. Lansdale* to join artist *Peter Bergting* for a 21st century version of the classic horror tale.

"It's flattering to be working on a Lovecraft project, one of the most influential horror writers of all time," said Lansdale, a seven-time Bram Stoker Award winner.

Originally published in the April 1929 issue of Weird Tales, and set in Dunwich, Massachusets, The Dunwich Horror depicts an eerie story of Wilbur Whateley, a sorcerer's grandson and his search for the Necronomicon, a magical textbook said to hold the powers to open the way for the return of the "Old Ones" to Earth.

"Like many before me, *H.P. Lovecraft*'s stories have had a great impact on my notion of what fiction can be," editor *Denton J. Tipton* said. "Helping to bring Lovecraft's work to a new generation of readers is a great honor, as is working with Joe and Peter. The legacy couldn't be in better hands."

Each of the four issues in the ***The Dunwich Horror*** miniseries will also offer an adaptation of Lovecraft's short story "The Hound," courtesy of noted Lovecraft historian *Robert Weinberg* and artist *Menton3*. First published in the February 1924 issue of Weird Tales, "The Hound" tells the cryptic tale of two grave robbers, who take their private collection too far when they dig up the grave of one of their own.

"Lovecraft's story 'The Hound' is horror at its most intense," said Weinberg. "The climax of the story is one you won't forget!"

H.P. Lovecraft's The Dunwich Horror #1 is slated for October release from IDW—the same month that the publisher is also releasing ***The Lovecraft Library Volume 1: Horror Out of Arkham***, featuring such HPL tales as "Herbert West—Reanimator," "The Unnamable," "The Color Out of Space," and (of course) "The Dunwich Horror," featuring illustrations by *Menton3*.

Coming Comics—DC in October

In his weakest moment, Superman is taken down – but by whom? And if the world wasn't ready for a man with super powers, they're utterly unprepared for the rage of a Superman cornered—but that's just what they'll face in ***Action Comics #2*** by *Grant Morrison, Rags Morales, & Rick Bryant*.

What happens when a psychologist and a sociopath have to work together to track down Gotham City's first serial killer? They'll soon find that crime in the big city runs deeper than its foundations, and it's all mapped out in the mysterious Crime Bible – that is, if they don't kill each other first.

Plus, no zombie is safe in the Wild West when Lazarus Lane summons the demon known as El Diablo in ***All-Star Western #2*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, Moritat, & Jordi Bernet*.

Maxine's new abilities continue to terrify Ellen and Buddy Baker, and things take a turn for the worse as Buddy begins a startling transformation of his own that will lead him on a journey into the heart of The Red in ***Animal Man #2*** by *Jeff Lemire & Travel Foreman*.

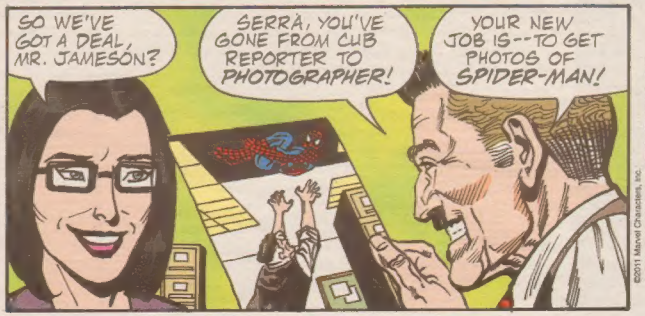
As Aquaman and Mera discover the grisly truth behind a town's disappearance, the Trench infestation spreads inland in ***Aquaman #2*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado*.

The nightmare-inducing brute known as Mirror is destroying the lives of Gotham City citizens seemingly at random, and an explosive confrontation between Batgirl and Mirror leads Babs to question wearing the cape and cowl at all in ***Batgirl #2*** by *Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes*.

Batman's fears about Robin's tendency to dish out more pain than necessary are growing, and you'll find out why in ***Batman & Robin #2*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mick Gray*.

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


SO WE'VE GOT A DEAL, MR. JAMESON?
SERRA, YOU'VE GONE FROM CUB REPORTER TO PHOTOGRAPHER!
YOUR NEW JOB IS--TO GET PHOTOS OF SPIDER-MAN!

WHY DID SERRA CARSON MAKE MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-18
DAILY
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Bruce Wayne is back in the cowl, hunting a new and deadly killer in Gotham City – a killer with a vendetta against Bruce Wayne! But who is this mysterious killer in an owl skull mask? Meet him in ***Batman* #2** by *Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion.*

Neal Adams' ***Batman: Odyssey*** continues with ***Batman: Odyssey v2 #1,*** in which Batman must kill or be killed.

Batman finds himself bombarded by his greatest foes in Arkham Asylum in ***Batman: The Dark Knight* #2** by *Paul Jenkins, David Finch, Richard Friend, & Jay Fabok.* And you won't believe the jaw-dropping final page!

What does the soldier in service of Batman Incorporated do when he's met his match? What does he do when lost Super Heroes begin turning up as victims? Find out in ***Batwing* #2** by *Judd Winick & Ben Oliver.*

A terrifying new villain stalks the innocent children of Gotham City in ***Batwoman* #2** by *J.H. Williams III & W. Haden Blackman.* Can Batwoman stop the new evil rising from the damp back alleys of Gotham's barrios—and overcome the many challenges she faces as both Batwoman and Kate Kane?

While the Blackhawks deal with a potential public exposure, Lady Blackhawk is keeping dangerous secrets of her own! And the first clues of a vast conspiracy throughout the DC Universe begin to take shape in ***Blackhawks* #2** by *Mike Costa, Graham Nolan, & Norm Rapmund.*

In *Duane Swierczynski & Jesus Saiz's* ***Birds of Prey* #2,** an explosion in a secure Gotham City airport terminal hurls Black Canary and Starling headlong into a nightmare involving stolen pharmaceuticals, terrorists for hire and killers in stealth suits who can appear – and disappear – at will.

Jaime Reyes was trying to save his best friend when an alien weapon attached itself to his spine. Now, if he wants to live to see tomorrow, Jaime must defeat a team of Super-Villains who want the weapon for more nefarious purposes in ***Blue Beetle* #2** by *Tony Bedard, Ig Guara, & Ruy Jose.*

Losing control of his powers, unable to stop the sensory overload in his mind, Captain Atom wants nothing more than to find a quiet place to regroup. But he learns how difficult that can be in ***Captain Atom* #2** by *J.T. Krul & Freddie Williams II.*

She's a thief who lives to steal just for the thrill of breaking the law. He's The Dark Knight, obsessively driven to battle evil with every ounce of his strength. And their lives become quite tangled in ***Catwoman* #2** by *Judd Winick & Guillem March.*

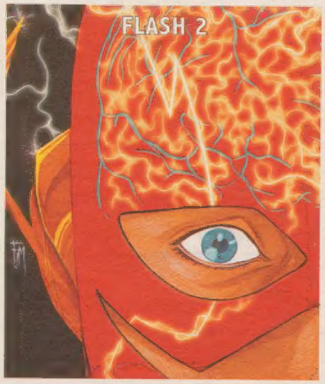
Ever since he died and became Deadman, Boston Brand has served the deity known as Rama Kushna, inhabiting bodies to complete missions that she dictates. But for the first time, Deadman may have a clue how to gain some control over his "life"—but at a very high cost—in ***DC Universe Presents* #2** by *Paul Jenkins & Bernard Chang.*

Deathstroke's tactical prowess is put to the test when the man who hired him attempts to renege on the contract in ***Deathstroke* #2** by *Kyle Higgins, Joe Bennett, & Art Thibert.*

Batman sets his sights on the Gotham Ripper, who in turn has his sights on Batman, in ***Detective Comics* #2** by *Tony S. Daniel & Ryan Winn.*. Meanwhile, Bruce Wayne explores a budding romance with television journalist Charlotte Rivers, who's visiting Gotham City to cover the gruesome slayings – while also trying to uncover Bruce's own mystery.

The Demon Etrigan and his unlikely lover, Madame Xanadu, face the Horde in ***Demon Knights* #2** by *Paul Cornell, Diogenes Neves, & Oclair Albert.* Problem is, the Horde is armed with the magic of Mordru – including some decidedly different dragons!

The Fastest Man Alive learns he can make his brain function even faster than before – but as much as it helps him, it also comes with a steep price. Find out what that price is in ***Flash* #2** by *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato.*



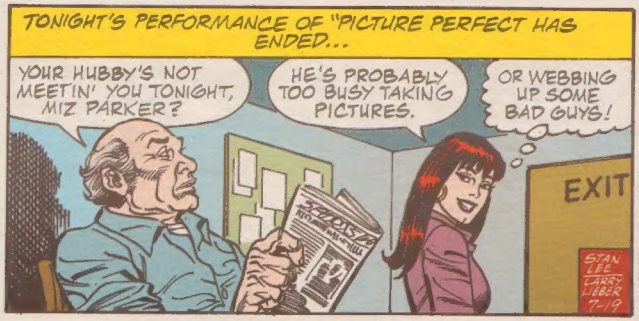
Three innocent high school kids are caught in the crosshairs of an international special forces team with orders to murder them in cold blood...until two of those teenagers summon the terrifying, living nuclear monstrosity known as the Fury of Firestorm in ***The Fury of Firestorm* #2** by *Ethan Van Sciver & Yildiray Cinar.*

It's all-out war as Frankenstein and his new field team, The Creature Commandos, uncover an age-old conspiracy at the heart of Bone Lake – one that will see them suit up as the world's first "Necronauts," traveling between worlds and through "dead space," toward the mysterious Monster Planet in ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE* #2** by *Jeff Lemire & Alberto Ponticelli.*

Super Hero executions will now be televised! After taking down members of a "celebrity" gang, Green Arrow finds himself in the crosshairs of the entire team! It's Ollie Queen vs. a dozen thrill killers while the world watches—live—in ***Green Arrow* #2** by *J.T. Krul, Dan Jurgens, & George Pérez.*

Guy Gardner and John Stewart lead a squadron of Green Lanterns to fight a mysterious force that is marching across the space sectors, devouring all in their paths, in ***Green Lantern Corps* #2** by *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Scott Hanna.*

Who – or what – has the might to tear power rings from each of the seven Lantern Corps, murdering their former bearers in the process? And why have the rings all chosen Kyle Rayner as their new master? Find out in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians* #2** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, Harvey Talibao, & Batt.*


TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE OF "PICTURE PERFECT HAS ENDED...
YOUR HUBBY'S NOT MEETIN' YOU TONIGHT, MIZ PARKER?
HE'S PROBABLY TOO BUSY TAKING PICTURES.
OR WEBBING UP SOME BAD GUYS!
EXIT
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-19
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Renegade Green Lantern Sinestro sets a course for Korugar with one purpose: To free his homeworld from the scourge of… The Sinestro Corps? Witness the confrontation in ***Green Lantern* #2** by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy.*

The police are looking for him. Government operatives are hunting him down. And Cole Cash can hear the voices of an alien race in his head. Escaping New Orleans will require quick thinking and a violent streak straight out of Cole's Special Operations background. Watch him in action in ***Grifter* #2** by *Nathan Edmondson, Cafu, & Jason Gorder.*

Hawk and Dove continue their investigation of the enigmatic Alexander Quirk in ***Hawk & Dove* #2** by *Sterling Gates & Rob Liefeld.*

By the end of *Paul Levitz, Marcus To, & John Dell's* ***The Huntress*** six-parter, the Huntress will have the largest price on her head in DC Universe history. What will she do that warrants such a death mark? And who puts it there? Find out in this series that ties into upcoming events in ***Birds of Prey.***

True love becomes divine hatred between the Queen of Blood and Andrew, as her vampires begin their attacks across the country in ***I, Vampire* #2** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andrea Sorrentino.*

What happens when the World's Greatest Detective takes on the world's most powerful alien? You'll find out when Batman and Superman throw down in ***Justice League* #2** by *Geoff Johns, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams.*

Madame Xanadu continues guiding the world's darkest heroes in their struggle against evil. But will John Constantine, Zatanna, Shade the Changing Man and the others be able to join forces in time to defeat the dangerous Enchantress before she destroys the world as we know it? Learn the answer in ***Justice League Dark* #2** by *Peter Milligan & Mikel Janin.*

The United Nations' new international team of heroes must learn to work together – and fast – if they're going to discover the mystery behind the giant alien Signalmen who are appearing all over the globe. Can Booster Gold lead his team to victory, or will they fall? Find out in ***Justice League International* #2** by *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan.*

Taken hostage on a hostile world, the Espionage Squad is outmatched by a rebel leader that only one Legionnaire could possibly stand against – but Legion leader Mon-El may be outgunned in ***Legion of Super-Heroes* #2** by *Paul Levitz & Francis Portela.*

Trapped in time with two teammates already dead and unsure if they're infected or can ever return home, the lost Legionnaires must confront the horrific reality about the pathogen released by the terrorist Alastor when they are forced to confront the very first Hypersapien in ***Legion Lost* #2** by *Fabian Nicieza & Pete Woods.*

Paul Levitz explores the origins of the Legion of Super-Heroes in the six-part ***Legion: Secret Origin.*** Why was the organization known as the United Planets formed? Who tried to kill R.J. Brande the first time? And what great power could leave entire planets desolate and lifeless? Cosmic Boy, Saturn Girl and Lightning Lad may have founded the Legion, but the story starts here!

In the split second after a heavy-weapons blast the air goes silent and still. How will Rock and his team of men – battle-hardened, but still human – survive a villainess who can walk on the very wind? The answers will be found in ***Men of War* #2** by *Ivan Brandon, Jonathan Vankin, Tom Derenick, & Phil Winslade.*

In *Eric Wallace & Gianluca Gugliotta's* ***Mister Terrific* #2,** readers will meet Brainstorm, the man determined to bring Los Angeles to its knees – beginning with billionaire Michael Holt. How can Mister Terrific defeat a foe even smarter than himself?

The adventures of Garbage Man and Tanga from ***Weird Worlds*** continue in ***My Greatest Adventure* #1**—and they're joined by the all-new Robotman, who has a disturbing knack for self-destruction.

When a mysterious assassin targets Dick Grayson, Nightwing must work fast to uncover the killer's plot before he strikes again in ***Nightwing* #2** by *Kyle Higgins & Eddy Barrows.* But as Haley's Circus continues to perform in Gotham City, Dick finds himself torn between two lives: His old one as a circus performer and his new one as a Super Hero.

Brother Eye gives Kevin Kho the ground rules to their new "arrangement." New players are introduced to the game as Sarge Steel and Checkmate begin their hunt for the One Machine Army Corp, but O.M.A.C.'s appearance may be short-lived when he faces the incredible threat of Rocker Bonn, the Amazing Man, in ***O.M.A.C.* #2** by *Dan DiDio, Keith Giffen, & Scott Koblish.*

Gregg Hurwitz & Szymon Kudranski chronicle the painful and dark past of one of Batman's most devious foes in the five-part ***Penguin: Pain and Prejudice.***

Red Hood is already globe-trotting in an effort to find the ancient assassins behind the slaughter of those who taught him some of his darkest skills... and if Roy and Kori are going to be of any help, they have to tag along—and that's just what they do in *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort's* ***Red Hood & the Outlaws* #2.**

On a war-torn world where invading forces fight insurgent forces, the innocent always suffer the most. When a child screams with red-hot rage at the madness around her, she is answered by her weapon of retribution—Atrocitus—in ***Red Lanterns* #2** by *Peter Milligan, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter.*

Mitch Shelley's past remains a mystery. So when he goes looking for answers, will he find them? Not likely, when he has to contend with the bounty hunter femme fatales known as The Body Doubles in ***Resurrection Man* #2** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Fernando Dagnino.*

The mysterious properties of the Nth Metal protect Hawkman from the life-draining alien known as Morphicius—but in the process, they are also making Morphicius powerful! Hawkman attempts to turn the table on his enemy in ***Savage Hawkman* #2** by *Tony Daniel & Philip Tan.*

James Robinson revisits the world of his acclaimed ***Starman*** series in the twelve-part ***The Shade,*** starring the enigmatic anti-hero in a tale that will ultimately shed light on his true origins. The first issue is illustrated by *Cully Hamner,* while upcoming artists include *Darwyn Cooke, Javier Pulido, Jill Thompson, Frazer Irving,* and *Gene Ha.*

Static finds himself the target of dark forces as Virule and the Slate Gang unleash their deadly trap in ***Static Shock* #2** by *Scott McDaniel, John Rozum, & Andy Owens.*

With an entire sports stadium on lockdown following the outbreak of an unknown virus, Deadshot, Harley Quinn and the rest of the Squad must sneak past a military perimeter and fight their way through the infected to retrieve... "it." What is "it"…? Find out in ***Suicide Squad* #2** by *Adam Glass, Federico Dallacchio, & Ransom Getty.*

Following the events of ***Superman* #1,** Stormwatch must not only battle the Earth's moon, but find a way to hide its monstrous metamorphosis from the rest of the Earth! Meanwhile, the recruitment of Midnighter goes poorly, and we learn why the Martian Manhunter is a member of the team in ***Stormwatch* #2** by *Paul Cornell, Miguel Sepulveda, & Al Barrionuevo.*

Project N.O.W.H.E.R.E. decides to test Superboy's raw power by throwing him into an alien prison riot in ***Superboy* #2** by *Scott Lobdell, R.B. Silva, & Rob Lean.*

Supergirl fights her cousin, The Man of Steel in ***Supergirl* #2** by *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, Mahmud Asrar, & Dan Green.* Can the teenage Supergirl hold her own against the adult Superman? Well, let's just say she's got a trick or two up those fancy new sleeves of hers...

Everyone can see the new villain who's attacking Superman – except The Man of Steel! How can he stop a threat that none of his super-senses can detect? Meanwhile, a Daily Planet reporter starts digging up some

dirt on Superman, including a secret that could ruin him forever, in ***Superman #2*** by *George Pérez & Jesus Merino.*

Alec Holland thought he knew the history of the Swamp Thing – but he was wrong. The creature's roots run deeper than he knows, and the Parliament of Trees intends to make him understand the responsibility he wants so desperately to avoid! In *Scott Snyder & Yanick Paquette's* ***Swamp Thing #2,*** the mythology of the Swamp Thing branches out in ways you never saw coming.

A strange creature haunts the streets of Los Angeles... and because of this creature's age, both Red Robin and N.O.W.H.E.R.E. are racing to find her – but neither side is prepared for the horror known as Bugg! Meet him in ***Teen Titans #2*** by *Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund.*

Voodoo is on the run in the new DC Universe, trying to stay one step ahead of her pursuers, using all of her considerable skills to complete a mission that will put the entire Earth in danger, in ***Voodoo #2*** by *Ron Marz & Sami Basri.*

Hera, Queen of the Gods, does not take her vengeance lightly—but it's Hera's daughter Diana should truly fear, because the goddess of discord is coming to Paradise Island in ***Wonder Woman #2*** by *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang.*

Acclaimed writer Brian Wood visits the realm of ***Supernatural*** in an all-new six-part limited series. On an academic break while at Stanford, Sam Winchester visits the United Kingdom on what is meant to be a sleepy trip...but on his first day he meets the alluring "Emma of the isles," and his visit gets a thousand percent less boring!

DC collected editions (solicited for Oct-Dec release) include:

- ***Batgirl: The Lesson TP,*** collecting ***Batgirl #s 15-22.***
- ***Batman: No Man's Land Volume 1 TP,*** a 544-page compendium that includes chapters that were never before collected.
- ***Batman: The Streets of Gotham—Leviathan TP,*** collecting ***Streets of Gotham #s 5-11.***
- ***Batman & Robin: Batman Vs. Robin TP,*** collecting ***Batman & Robin #s 7-12.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Batman: Blink #1,*** collecting ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 156-158 & Action #847.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Batman: The Demon Laughs,*** collecting ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 142-145.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Catwoman: Guardian of Gotham #1,*** collecting the miniseries by *Doug Moench & Jim Balent.*
- ***DC Comics Presents the Jack Kirby Omnibus Sampler #1,*** featuring 96 pages of classic Kirby reprints from the 1950s.
- ***DC Comics Presents JLA: The Age of Wonder #1,*** collecting the two-part miniseries.
- ***DC Comics Presents Superboy's Legion #1,*** collecting the miniseries by *Mark Farmer & Alan Davis.*
- ***DC Comics Presents Superman: Secret Identity #1,*** collecting the first two issues of the four-part miniseries by *Kurt Busiek & Stuart Immonen.*
- ***DC Comics: The New 52 HC,*** collecting all 52 of September's first issues in a massive 1216 page hardcover.
- ***DC Universe Online Legends Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***DC Universe Online Legends #s 0-7.***
- ***Flashpoint HC,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries by *Geoff Johns & Andy Kubert.*
- ***Gotham City Sirens: Songs of the Sirens TP,*** collecting ***Gotham City Sirens #s 8-14.***
- ***Infamous TP,*** collecting the six-issue videogame inspired miniseries.
- ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Volume 1 TP,*** a softcover edition of the 304-page collection.
- ***Jonah Hex: Bury Me In Hell TP,*** collecting ***Jonah Hex #s 61-67.***
- ***JSA All-Stars: The Puzzle Men TP,*** collecting ***JSA All-Stars #s 14-19.***
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes Archives Volume 13 HC,*** collecting ***Superboy & the Legion of Super-Heroes #s 224-233.***
- ***Showcase Presents Batman Volume 5 TP,*** collecting ***Detective Comics #s 391-407 & Batman #s 216-228.***
- ***Steve Ditko Omnibus Volume 2 HC,*** collecting Ditko tales from ***Showcase #75, Hawk & Dove #s 1 & 2,*** and much more.
- ***Superman: Grounded Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Superman #s 707-711 & 713-714.***
- ***Superman: Last Stand on New Krypton Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Last Stand of New Krypton #s 1 & 2, Adventure #s 8 & 9, Superman #698,*** and ***Supergirl #51.***
- ***Superman: The Return of Doomsday TP,*** collecting ***Steel #1, Outsiders #37, Justice League #55, Superman/Batman Annual #5,*** and ***Superboy #6.***
- ***Tales of the Batman: Don Newton Volume 1 HC,*** collecting 272 pages of tales illustrated by Newton.
- ***Teen Titans: Team Building TP,*** collecting ***Teen Titans #s 88-92, Red Robin #2, & Wonder Girl #1.***
- ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the first ten issues of the *Nick Spencer* series.
- ***Wonder Woman Chronicles Volume 2 TP,*** collecting Wonder Woman tales from ***Wonder Woman #s 2 &3, Sensation Comics #s 10-14,*** and ***Comics Cavalcade #1.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in October

Leslie Klinger offers a panel-by-panel journey through every issue of ***Sandman,*** beginning with the first twenty issues in ***The Annotated Sandman Volume 1 HC.*** This volume provides commentary, historical and contemporary references, hidden meanings and more, presented side-by-side with the series' art and text. Using scripts and hours of conversation with Gaiman, Klinger reveals fascinating details of ***The Sandman's*** hundreds of unforgettable characters and its place in literary history.

After offering a preview in ***Strange Adventures #1,*** *Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso* launch their nine-part ***Spaceman*** this fall with a debut issue affordably priced at only $1. Set in a post-apocalyptic near future, ***Spaceman*** tells the story of Orson, a hulking, lonely loser who spends his days collecting scrap metal and dreaming of the startrekking life he was promised... until he finds himself at the center of a celebrity child kidnapping case. Seeing his chance to be a hero, Orson takes matters into his own hands...but will his actions only cause more heartbreak?

In the wake of the success of ***Strange Adventures,*** Vertigo presents another groundbreaking anthology: ***The Unexpected,*** featuring nine tales of horror, suspense, and some unexpected twists by *Dave Gibbons, Brian Wood, Joshua Dysart, Jill Thompson,* and others. This issue also includes a preview of Vertigo's next major monthly series: a macabre and magical saga of voodoo gods and mortals in the death-soaked streets of New Orleans!

Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***Scalped Volume 8: You Gotta Sin to Get Saved TP,*** collecting ***Scalped #s 43-49.***
- ***Vertigo Resurrected: The Eaters #1,*** collecting the 1995 epic of the Quills, along with other short features.

Coming from DC Direct

DC Comics: The Number Ones Comics Cover Portfolio Set: The Full Collection is a hefty 9" x 12" portfolio featuring the cover art for all 52 DC September relaunch issues, presented without overtype or logos. (October)

The Emerald Knight Battles the Embodiment of Fear in the ***Classic Confrontations: Green Lantern Hal Jordan Vs. Parallax Statue.*** (March 2012)

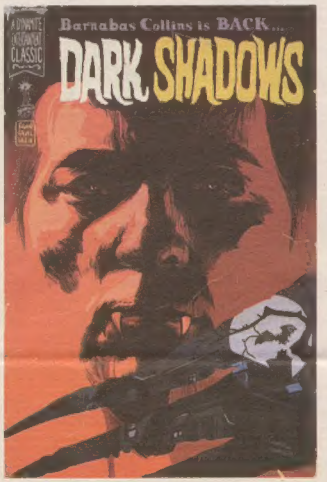
The ***Women of the DC Universe*** line of busts continues with Series 4, featuring new artist *Ryan Sook.* The ***Women of the DC Universe Series 4: Arisia Bust*** offers a striking sculpture of the Green Lantern of Space Sector 2815. (March 2012)

The ***DC Universe Online Action Figure Series One*** set offers action figures of ***Batman, Catwoman, Cyborg,*** and ***Wonder Woman,*** based on the art of *Jim Lee.* (March 2012)

The ***Green Lantern: The Animated Series Hal Jordan Maquette*** offers a 12" figure of Green Lantern as featured in the upcoming Cartoon Network series. (March 2012)

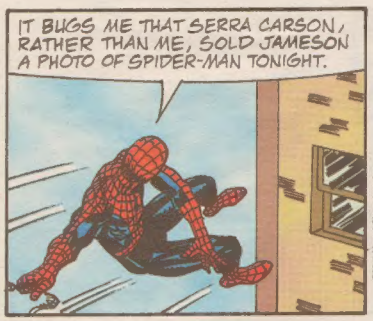
Coming Comics—Dynamite in October

As Colonel Steve Austin hover between life and death, his body is ruined and his spirit broken, the demented cyborg Hull launches the first strike in his fanatical war against humanity in ***The Bionic Man #3*** by *Kevin Smith, Phil Hester, & Jonathan Lau.*



The most famous supernatural soap opera in television history comes to comics this fall when Dynamite unveils its ***Dark Shadows*** comic book series, courtesy of *Stuart Manning & Aaron Campbell.* Barnabas Collins is re-adjusting to life under his vampiric curse. Haunted by terrifying dreams of his age-old lover and nemesis, Angelique, and fighting his bloodlust, Barnabas fears that danger lies ahead for all who live at Collinwood. Meanwhile, Barnabas' ally and trusted friend Dr. Julia Hoffman is harboring secrets of her own...

Dynamite's adaptation of *George R. R. Martin's* monumental fantasy epic continues in ***George R. R. Martin's Game of Thrones***


IT BUGS ME THAT SERRA CARSON, RATHER THAN ME, SOLD JAMESON A PHOTO OF SPIDER-MAN TONIGHT.
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#2 by *Daniel Abraham & Tommy Patterson*, featuring 29 pages of story and art.

The Green Hornet and Kato enter a cage match with the baddest men in Century City in ***Green Hornet #21,*** a standalone tale by *Ande Parks & Igor Vitorino*.

In ***Kirby Genesis #5*** by *Kurt Busiek, Alex Ross, & Jack Herbert*, Silver Star, Captain Victory, and the Glory Knights take on Darius Drumm, the Lightning Lady and Roag over the Proto-Seed.

The enigmatic soldier known as Captain Victory leads an elite group of intergalactic rangers through the mysterious and deadly cosmos, fighting against forces set on the destruction of life itself, in ***Kirby Genesis: Captain Victory #1*** by *Alex Ross, Sterling Gates, & Wagner Reis*.

Comics icon Stan Lee, creator of the Mighty Marvel Universe and characters such as Spider-Man, Incredible Hulk, X-Men, and Iron Man, has set about to teach everything he knows about writing and creating comic book characters—and that's just what he does in ***Stan Lee's How to Write Comics,*** offered in both trade paperback and hardcover editions.. In these pages, aspiring comics writers will learn everything they need to know about how to write their own comic book stories, complete with easy to understand instruction, tips of the trade, and invaluable advice even for more advance writers. From the secrets to creating concepts, plots, to writing the script, the man with no peer--*Stan Lee*--is your guide to the world of writing and creating comics.

Arvid Nelson & Stephen Sadowski kick off the "Gods of Mars" story arc in ***Warlord of Mars #13.*** Trouble begins when John Carter returns to Mars to be with his beloved princess and the son he has never known, but he arrives on the Red Planet in a forest of horrors, a place he's never seen before.

Dynamite collected volumes include:

- ***Green Hornet Volume 3: Idols TP,*** collecting ***Green Hornet #s 11-15.***
- ***Jim Butcher's Dresden Files: Fool Moon Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***Fool Moon #s 1-4.***
- ***The Lone Ranger Volume 4: Resolve TP,*** collecting ***Lone Ranger #s 17-25.***
- ***Sherlock Holmes: Year One TP,*** collecting the six-issue series along with bonus material and a complete cover gallery.
- ***Vampirella Masters Series Volume 6: James Robinson TP,*** collecting *James Robinson & Joe Jusko's* tale "Blood Lust' along with ***Vampirella Vs. Dracula.***
- ***Warlord of Mars: Dejah Thoris Volume One—Colossus of Mars TP,*** collecting ***Dejah Thoris #s 1-5.***

Adam Hughes' depiction of Dracula is the basis of Dynamite's ***Vampirella Statue Inspired by Adam Hughes—Diamond Eyes Edition,*** sculpted by *Tom & Joy Snyder*.

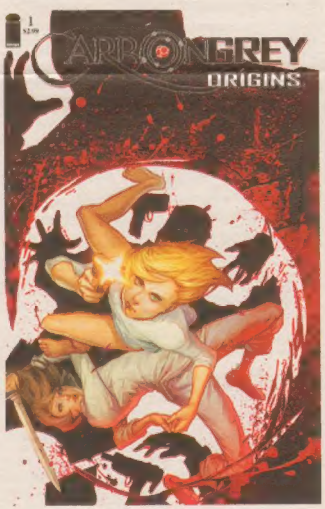
Want Vampirella hanging around at your house? then you'll want to pick up the ***Vampirella: Sad Wings of Destiny Poster*** and the ***Vampirella: Dracula War Poster,*** both featuring striking painted art by *Joe Jusko*.

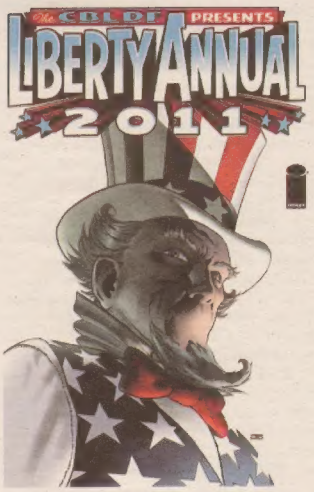
Coming Comics—Image in October

Ron Marz unveils the secrets of the Artifacts in ***Artifacts Origins,*** a oneshot featuring art by *Marc Silvestri, Dale Keown, Bart Sears, Michael Golden, Whilce Portacio,* and many others.

Stan Lee, Todd McFarlane, Jon Goff, & Carlo Soriano join internationally acclaimed musician *Yoshiki* to introduce a new hero in ***Blood Red Dragon #0.*** The story, which combines elements of SF, anime, and superhero adventure, focuses on a hero whose powers are derived from musical creativity itself.

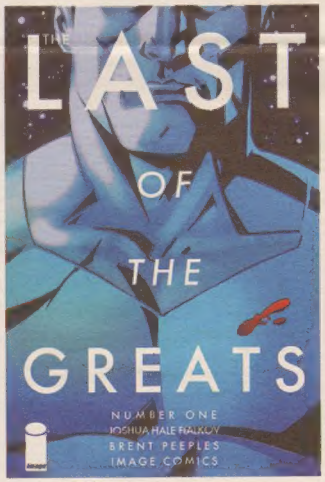
Carbon Grey Origins is a two-issue anthology series featuring short stories set in the universe of the Carbon Grey, produced by *Paul Gardner, Hoang Nguyen, Khari Evans, Pop Mhan, & Kinsun Loh.*. Legends, secret histories, and continuity errors—all will be revealed.





Matt Wagner, J. Michael Straczynski, Steve Niles, Judd Winick, Richard Starkings, J.H. Williams III, Jeff Lemire, Frank Quitely, Fred Hembeck, Greg Land, Greg Horn, Ivan Reis, Dustin Nguyen—they're just a few of the impressive array of contributors to the ***CBLDF Liberty Annual 2011,*** a 48-page book done to benefit the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

There were seven, possessing the power of gods, and representing all that could be right with the world. But now... he is the Last. As humanity stands on the brink of annihilation, he is humanity's only hope... but he hates the human race. Meet him in ***The Last of the Greats #1*** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Brent Peeples*.



Jonathan Hickman is both writer *and* artist of ***Feel Better Now,*** the story of a highly qualified Los Angeles psychologist who deal with boredom by screwing with his patients... (As if that's not the norm...)

Pilot Season returns for 2011 with a quartet of offerings:

- ***Test #1*** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Rahsan Ekedal* - A group of ten strangers wake up in a mysterious town with no memory of who they are and how they got there. They are the lone survivors of an apocalyptic event, chosen to repopulate the Earth. But what is the true nature of their fate?

- ***City of Refuge #1*** by *Morgan Davis Foehl & Dennis Calero* - Over a decade after Terminal, the residents of San Francisco live a peaceful and prosperous existence thanks to the Program. Every resident of the city is hand-

I--MUST HAVE--FALLEN ASLEEP ON THE SOFA.
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I'LL GET THE PAPER TO CHEER HIM UP WHEN HE WAKES!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
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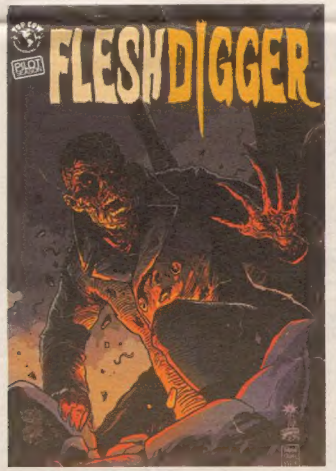
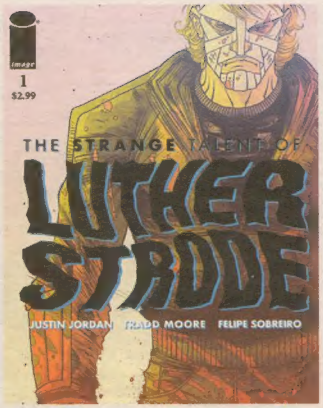
selected and implanted with the chip Secura, which removes the human capacity for violence to maintain the greater good. But now there are rumors that a controlled substance is threatening to upset the societal balance...

•***The Beauty #1*** by *Jeremy Haun & Jason Hurley* - What if there was a way to guarantee you could be come more and more beautiful every day? What if it was contagious? In the world of The Beauty, physical perfection is attainable, but Detectives Foster and Vaughn will soon discover it comes with a terrible price.



•***Fleshdigger #1*** by *Shannon Eric Denton, Brad Keene, & Alex Sanchez* - When a man witnessed the ruthless beating of an innocent woman, he rushed to help her and was brutally murdered for his trouble. Now driven by revenge, sorrow, and guilt, the woman enacts arcane forces to resurrect him. From out of the earth he'll rise, a twisted, worm-riddled monstrosity forced to carry out vengeance to maintain whatever life he has left, all while confronting the unimaginable truth of his new, hideous existence. But is it possible to shed the curse and return to normal?

Justin Jordan & Tradd Moore tell the tale of an average nerd whose life is remade when he sends away for a bodybuilding course in



The Strange Talent of Luther Strode #1. Luther's newfound strength and strange talents make school a lot easier, but they've also caused some very, *very* bad people to take a very, *very* keen interest in him...

Addicted to aliens? Late night encounters? Abductions? Probes? The Xenoholics are here to help—and you'll meet them in ***Xenoholics #1*** by *Joshua Williamson & Seth Damoose*. Because everyone thinks they're a bunch of nutcases, a support group that claims aliens abducted them try to prove that aliens are real. But that's much easier said than done and they find themselves caught up in not just one but *two* government conspiracies.

The new creative team of *Tim Seeley & Diego Bernard* premiere with ***Witchblade #151***—and they're bringing big changes to Sara Pezzini's world in the aftermath of ***Artifacts.***

From monsters crippled with pneumonia or demons suffering from incontinence, only one man claims to possess the skills and the training to cure what ails them... and you'll see him in action in ***Doc Bizarre, MD,*** a 72-page hardcover by *Joe Casey & Andy Suriano.*

Image collected editions include:

•***Artifacts Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Artifacts #s 9-13.***

•***Last Mortal HC,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.

•***Mice Templar Volume 3 HC,*** collecting the limited series.

•***Nightmare World Volume 3: Demon Days,*** featuring remastered art, a bonus prose story, and more.

•***Science Dog Oversized HC,*** collecting the *Robert Kirkman/Cory Walker* tales from ***Invincible.***

•***The Walking Dead Book 7 HC,*** collecting ***Walking Dead #s 73-84.***

•***The Walking Dead Survivor's Guide TP,*** collecting the handbook miniseries.

•***Who Is Jake Ellis? Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

CSNsider

•Content changes for several ***Green Lantern*** titles: ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors #12*** will now feature art by *Chris Batista & John Dell* on a story that pits Guy Gardner and a team of specialists against an ancient threat to the core; ***Emerald Warriors #13*** will now feature *Ron Frenz & John Dell* art; ***Green Lantern Corps #62*** will feature an untold tale set before Blackest Night starring Kyle Baker, courtesy of *Tony Bedard, Daniel HDR, & Keith Champagne*; ***Green Lantern Corps #63*** will now feature four tales written by *Scott Kolins* and illustrated by *Kolins, Joe Prado, Daniel HDR, & Freddie E. Williams II*; ***War of the Green Lanterns: Aftermath #1*** will now feature art by *Miguel Sepulveda, Tyler Kirkham & Batt*; and ***Aftermath #2*** will now feature art by *Ransom Getty & Andy Smith.*

•DC has cancelled orders for ***Billy Batson and the Magic of Shazam!: Back in Black TP;*** the book will not be resolicited.

•Marvel has announced two second printing variants of ***X-Men: Schism #1,*** one featuring a Cyclops cover and the other featuring a Wolverine cover.

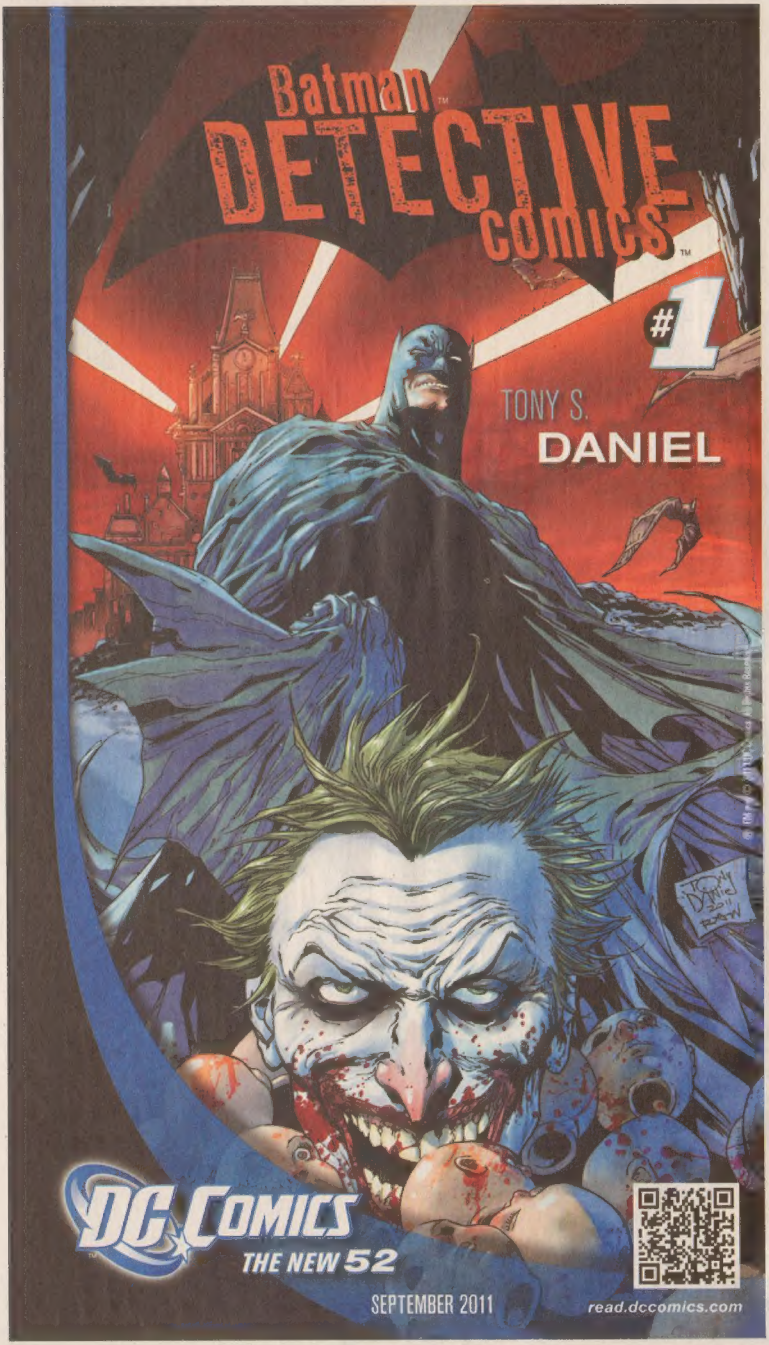
Trumans Hawkin' Hawken

Tim Truman, acclaimed creator of ***Grimjack*** and ***Scout*** as well as hit series starring ***Jonah Hex*** and ***Hawkman,*** is co-creator of ***Hawken,*** a six-issue series slated for fall launch from IDW. Truman is joined by his son *Ben Truman,* who co-created and is scripting the series.

Hawken stars Kit Hawken, an aging gunman with a vendetta against his former employer, the arms merchants and corrupt politicians of the Tucson Ring. But this isn't a traditional Western series: you see, Hawken is accompanied by the ghost of every person he's ever killed in this Western revenge epic.

Hawken #1 is scheduled for November release.

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News!*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